

Washington, DC - Congressman Charlie Gonzalez (TX-20) issued the following statement on President Bush's Fiscal Year 2009 Budget:

"The American public deserves a fiscally responsible budget that brings us back to a surplus, adheres to the pay-as-you-go principles enacted by Congress last year, and most importantly, appropriately reflects the priorities of the American people. A strong investment in public health, safety, education, infrastructure and our veterans is essential to not only fostering economic growth but putting us on track for future fiscal responsibility. That is the type of budget that is much needed, but unfortunately, not what the President has sent."

"Congress will negotiate with the President but he must understand that this is a two-way street and that his proposals raise legitimate concerns. Congress will not abandon the needs of the American people during this process and we are hopeful that we can arrive at a compromise that serves the public's best interests."

According the House Budget Committee, the President's FY 2009 budget mandates tax cuts for a small percentage of the wealthiest Americans at a cost of \$3 trillion over the next 10 years, leaving behind deficits of \$410 billion for 2008 and \$407 billion for 2009. To pay for these tax cuts, the President proposes an array of budget cuts, ranging from a decrease in Medicare funding of \$556 billion over 10 years to an additional \$47 billion in net legislated Medicaid cuts over the same span of time. The President also proposes \$5.2 billion in new fees assessed on veterans over the next 10 years.

To read the House Budget Committee's review of the President's budget, click here:

http://budget.house.gov/pres_budgets/09Instant_Analysis_Web.pdf

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